

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below for the Examiner's benefit. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 4, and 28 and ADD claims 29-31 in accordance with the following

1. (Currently Amended)      A database updating apparatus comprising:  
a network;  
a server arranged to provide database-related information, via the network; and  
a user computer arranged to access the server, via the network, and to retrieve the database-related information,  
wherein the user computer comprises an optical disc recording/reproducing apparatus,  
and is configured to:  
    record data on and reproduce data from an optical disc, in which a database, an encryption key, and a date and time of a last update of the database are recorded, wherein the date and time of the last update are generated by the server,  
    transmit the date and time of the last update to the server,  
    record modified/updated data for initial data of the database on the optical disc,  
and  
    record an encrypted password which is encrypted using the encryption key on the optical disc;  
wherein the server determines if modification/update of the database recorded on the optical disc is needed based on the transmitted date and time, and transmits the modified/updated data to the optical disc recording/reproducing apparatus, and  
wherein the initial data of the database is recorded in a read only region of the optical disc prior to a first access of the server by the user computer, and the modified/updated data for the initial data of the database transmitted from the server is recorded in a recordable region of the optical disc.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the server transmits a purchase order, which is received from the user computer, to the user computer and the optical disc recording/reproducing apparatus records the purchase order on the optical disc.

4. (Currently Amended) A method of updating a database comprising:  
permitting a user computer usable with an optical disc, on which a vendor database and an encryption key isare recorded in a read only region of the optical disc, to access a server of the database vendor, via a network;

recording an encrypted password which is encrypted using the encryption key on the optical disc;

receiving a date and time of a last update of the database recorded in a recordable region of the optical disc from the user computer, and determining whether modification/update of the database is needed based on the received date and time, wherein the date and time of the last update are generated by the server;

transmitting modified/updated data to the user computer if modification/update is needed;  
and

recording the modified/updated data in the recordable region of the optical disc.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising:  
recording a new date and time of last update of the disc in the recordable region.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising:  
transmitting a purchase order from the user computer to the vendor server;  
transmitting information related to the purchase order from the vendor server to the user computer; and

recording the purchase order information on the recordable region of the optical disc.

8-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) A method of distributing and maintaining a database, the method comprising:

distributing an optical disc having a read-only region in which a data base corresponding to a first date and time and an encryption key is-are recorded and a recordable region in which the first date and time is recorded;

operating the optical disc in a user computer having an optical disc reproducing/recording apparatus;

maintaining update data for the data base corresponding to a second date and time when the data base was updated on a server;

accessing the server and transmitting the first date and time to the server;

comparing the first date and time with the second date and time;

transmitting the update data and the second date and time to the user computer if the second date and time is later than the first date and time;

storing the update data and an encrypted password which is encrypted using the encryption key in the recordable region of the optical disc; and

updating the first date and time stored in the recordable region to the second date and time, wherein the first and second dates and times are generated by the server.

29. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the encryption key is recorded in the read only region of the optical disc prior to the first access of the server by the user computer.

30 (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the encrypted password is recorded in the recordable region of the optical disc.

31 (New) The method of claim 4, wherein the encrypted password is recorded in the recordable region of the optical disc.